

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY: EA/VLC:JRJOHNSON

APPROVED BY: EA:ROAKLEY

-----160537Z 046659 /11

R 151719Z MAR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS STATE 057234

FOLLOWING REPEAT CINCPAC MSG DTG 150330Z MAR 77 ACTION
SECSTATE OASD CINCPAC REP PHILLIPPINES SUBIC BAY
13AF CLARK INFO CINCPACAF CINCPACFLT CDRUSACSG CDR JCRC
JCS AMEMB MANILA

QTE

UNCLAS/J742/J74

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS/INFORMATION OFFICERS; 13AF CLARK ATTN LCOL
GOUBERT, IO, FOR MR. MORTON SMITH

NEWS MEDIA COVERAGE OF WOODCOCK COMMISSION STOPOVER IN HAWAII
1. WOODCOCK COMMISSION ACTIVITIES IN HAWAII ON 14 MARCH RECEIVED
EXTENSIVE NEWS MEDIA COVERAGE.

2. MEDIA TRAVELLING WITH COMMISSION AND LOCAL MEDIA FILMED
COMMISSION IN CINCPAC BRIEFING ROOM PRIOR TO BRIEFINGS BY DOD AND
JCRC. ALL MEDIA RECEIVED BRIEFING ON JCRC ROLE AND TOURED CENTRAL
IDENTIFICATION LABORATORY (CIL). GROUP PERMITTED TO PHOTOGRAPH CIL
INTERIOR WITH NO REMAINS EXPOSED.

3. FINAL EVENT WAS NEWS CONFERENCE AT HICKAM AFB. MEDIA PRESENT
INCLUDED FIVE REPS TRAVELLING WITH COMMISSION IN ADDITION TO LOCAL
AFFILIATES OF ABC-TV, CBS-TV, NBC-TV, AP, UPI, AND TWO LOCAL AND
ONE L.A. RADIO STATIONS.

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4. TRANSCRIPT OF NEWS CONFERENCE FOLLOWS:

WOODCOCK: THERE ISN'T MUCH WE CAN SAY THAT ISN'T ALREADY IN
THE PUBLIC DOMAIN. WE ARE GOING TO HANOI WITH OUR PRIMARY RESPON-
SIBILITY TO TRY TO GET A KEY TO THE SOLUTION OF THE TROUBLESOME MIA
PROBLEM; AND, HOPEFULLY, IN THE PROCESS OF DOING THAT, IF WE CAN DO
IT, WE CAN FIND A BRIDGEHEAD THAT WILL LEAD TOWARD NORMALIZATION IN
RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS,

MAYBE WE CAN TRY TO ANSWER THEM.

QUESTION: WHY NORMALIZATION?

WOODCOCK: WELL, BECAUSE THAT'S THE OBJECTIVE THAT WE FINALLY HAVE. OBVIOUSLY, MANY, MANY THINGS WOULD HAVE TO HAPPEN BEFORE WE REACH THAT POINT.

QUESTION: WHY DO YOU THINK THAT YOU WERE CHOSEN TO HEAD THIS COMMISSION?

WOODCOCK: I'M AFRAID YOU WILL HAVE TO ASK THE PRESIDENT THAT.

QUESTION: ANY EXPERTISE IN THE FIELD THAT WOULD SEEM TO LEAD YOU TO HAVE EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE?

WOODCOCK: OH, NO, NO.

QUESTION: LOTS OF NEGOTIATING EXPERIENCE?

MONTGOMERY: I'D LIKE TO SAY THAT THE CHAIRMAN WORKED US VERY HARD TO WHERE WE FEEL LIKE WE ARE ORGANIZED. WE PREPARED OURSELVES BACK IN THE STATES UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP. IN HAWAII, WE HAVE HAD A VERY FINE BRIEFING AND UPDATE ON SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE MISSING, AND I THINK HE IS A GOOD LEADER FOR US.

QUESTION: MR. WOODCOCK, DO YOU THINK THAT THERE ARE MISSING AMERICANS STILL ALIVE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA?

WOODCOCK: WE ARE GOING TO HANOI AND VIENTIANE WITHOUT ANY PRECONCEPTIONS. WE ARE SEEKING AN ACCOUNTING AND WHEREVER THAT ACCOUNTING MAY TAKE US.

QUESTION: ARE YOU IN POWER TO MAKE ANY SORT OF ARRANGEMENT ON NORMALIZATION BASED ON...

WOODCOCK: NO, SIR. NO, SIR. WE ARE NOT A DIPLOMATIC MISSION. THE ONLY MATTER UPON WHICH WE CAN ENGAGE IN, IN BACK AND FORTH INTERCHANGE LEADING TO POSSIBLE CONCLUSIONS, IS ON THE MIA MATTER. ON THE REST, WE CAN SIMPLY--THROUGH DIALOGUE, YES--GET THEIR POINT OF VIEW TO TAKE BACK TO THE PRESIDENT FOR HIS CONSIDERATION.

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QUESTION: DO YOU HAVE ANY INDICATION THAT THOSE TWELVE MISSING AND POSSIBLE REMAINS THAT HANOI HAS ALREADY ADMITTED THAT THEY HAVE WILL BE TURNED OVER TO YOU?

WOODCOCK: WE HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO INDICATION RELATIVE TO THAT. ALL WE KNOW IS THAT LAST SEPTEMBER THEY IDENTIFIED THE TWELVE. THEREFORE, WE CERTAINLY PRESUME THEY HAVE THEM, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO INDICATION THAT IS THEIR INTENTION.

QUESTION: MR. WOODCOCK, ARE YOU GOING TO SEEK ANY COOPERATION FROM HANOI ON JOINT WORK WITH AMERICAN EXPERTS AT JCRC IN INSPECTING THE SITES WHERE AMERICANS MAY BE BURIED AND MISSING?

WOODCOCK: WELL, WE ARE GOING TO BE SEEKING A HANDLE. IF WE CAN ESTABLISH THE BEGINNING, THEN HOW IT WILL BE DONE WILL BE A SUBJECT OF DETERMINATION POSSIBLY IN THE SHORT TIME WE WILL BE THERE, POSSIBLY IN ONGOING DISCUSSIONS.

QUESTION: ANY WORD ON YOUR VISIT TO CAMBODIA?

WOODCOCK: WE HAVE NOT ASKED TO GO TO CAMBODIA. WE DID ASK THROUGH PEKING IF THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY OF MEETING WITH THE CAMBODIAN AMBASSADOR IN HANOI. AS OF THIS POINT, WE HAVE NO RESPONSE TO THAT.

QUESTION: DID THE PRESIDENT TELL YOU ANYTHING ABOUT THE SITUATION REGARDING AMERICAN AID TO VIETNAM?

WOODCOCK: WELL, THE QUESTION OF AID--WE ARE ALL AWARE THAT THAT IS FORBIDDEN BY OUR PRESENT LAW AND IS A MATTER THAT COULD ONLY COME INTO BEING AT WHATEVER TIME BY AN ACT OF CONGRESS.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH. UNQTE VANCE

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